

REMARKS

By the present amendment, minor revisions have been made in the specification, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claim 5 has been added with the appropriate modification in the dependency of claim 4. New claim 5 now recites a lithographic printing plate precursor in a manner similar to claim 1, but defines the diazonium ion as being represented by formula (7) which is consistent with the disclosure set forth on pages 14 and 15 of the specification.

Based on the recitations set forth in new claim 5 and claim 4 which depends therefrom, applicants respectfully submit that this aspect of the present invention is patentable over the single prior art applied in the Official Action. In particular, Pappas et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,846,685, relates to a radiation sensitive composition containing an adduct of a diazonium resin having pendant diazonium groups with a sulfonated acrylic copolymer having pendant sulfonate groups. As specifically set forth in the passage beginning at column 5, line 51,

When the solvent soluble adduct of this invention is exposed to actinic radiation, it is rendered insoluble in the developer. Without being bound by any one theory, it is believed that diazonium groups of the exposed adduct decompose and that ionic linkages between the resin and the copolymer are replaced with permanent covalent crosslinks to form an insoluble network structure. In addition to being sensitive to actinic radiation, adducts of this invention may be insolubilized thermally by suitable heat treatment.

In contrast to this specifically defined material of Pappas et al., the lithographic printing plate precursor of the present invention involves a defined hydrophobic high molecular compound which can be converted into hydrophilic by irradiation with actinic

rays and/or heating as specifically disclosed in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13. This conversion ability is advantageous and can facilitate on-machine processing such as set forth on page 169 of the specification. Therefore, by following the teachings of Pappas et al. those of ordinary skill in the art would be led away from the aspect of the invention defined in the claims of record. Accordingly, Pappas et al. cannot be used in any way to reject the claims now of record.

In light of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing discussion, applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 4 are patentable in all respects and therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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